

North Shore Estate



The original house was built in 1892 and is situated on a magnificent piece of property that is surrounded by water on three sides. An extension was added to the house in the 1920's which contained a kitchen and staff quarters. This new addition was never intended for the family's use and was not designed to take advantage of the ocean views. Ironically, the homeowners found themselves spending a great deal of time in this addition and wanted to open up the small dark spaces and increase opportunities for outdoor living while maintaining the original character of the main house.



The architect reconfigured the interior spaces, added multiple outdoor terraces and created a secondary entrance for the family to access the more casual living spaces. Previously, there was a very awkward transition into the new wing from the main house and this connection was opened significantly and designed to be in keeping with the character of the main house.

Building Information:

Location: North Shore, MA

Size: All 12,000 square feet of the original home was renovated with minimal additions.

Site Description: A rocky point jutting into the Atlantic Ocean on the North Shore of Massachusetts. Views of the ocean from three sides of the home. A large portion of the grounds have been left in a relatively natural state with trails meandering from space to space connecting to occasional surprising outdoor rooms.

Design Solution: As the architect first noticed, "the 1920's addition, used on a daily basis by the family, desperately needed a better way to access the outside or enter the home." As it existed, the only entry was to pass through the main formal entry, then walk through the formal dining room and a narrow passageway to reach the kitchen. This awkward transition was solved by the addition of a second entry for day-to-day casual use and significantly opening up the connection between the formal dining and huge entry foyer with a wider and grander hallway.

To improve on these conditions the home underwent a transformation to become more efficient and an aesthetically pleasing and practical year-round retreat.